

## PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation  
3 Terrace Way  
Greensboro, NC 27403-3660  
Phone: 336-232-0376  
www.nbccf.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9, 2019

### **Benjamin D. Aiken Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**



Denver, CO—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Benjamin D. Aiken, of Denver, Colorado, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Aiken will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his service to underserved minority populations.

The NBCC MFP is made possible by a grant awarded to the NBCC Foundation by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Foundation administers the MFP, including training and collaboration activities, such as [webinars](#), that are open to all National Certified Counselors (NCCs). The goal of the program is to strengthen the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increases the number of professional counselors providing effective, culturally competent services to underserved populations.

The NBCC Foundation will distribute \$20,000 to Aiken and the other 19 doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Aiken is a graduate of the University of Colorado, in Denver, and of Rollins College, in Winter Park, Florida, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at the University of Wyoming, in Laramie. Aiken is currently committed to the marginalized LGBTQ and gender nonconforming population through his ongoing commitment to teach, research, and provide direct mental health services to this underserved population. His doctoral research dissertation, in progress, is entitled *Breaking the Binary: A Narrative Inquiry Into the Lived Experiences of Transmasculine-Identified Individuals Working With Cisgender-Identified Male Therapists in Counseling*. This fellowship will allow him to carry out his research, which is intended to promote social justice and foster social change by identifying and recognizing transgender and gender nonconforming individuals' experiences, while also improving upon the provision of clinical practices while enhancing access to culturally competent services to individuals across the LGBTQ and gender spectrum. Aiken is a licensed professional counselor in Colorado and Wyoming, and he is board certified by the National Board for Certified Counselors. He is also a Diplomat in Logotherapy candidate. Following completion of his PhD and Diplomat in Logotherapy credential in 2020, Aiken will be seeking a faculty position in a counselor education program while continuing to advance his clinical work in private practice.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 30 \$10,000 [master's-level fellowships](#) through the MFP-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M) and 40 [master's-level fellowships](#) of \$15,000 through the MFP-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP application period in fall 2019. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit [www.nbccf.org/Programs/Fellows](http://www.nbccf.org/Programs/Fellows).

ABOUT THE NBCC FOUNDATION

The NBCC Foundation is the nonprofit affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), based in Greensboro, North Carolina. NBCC is the nation's premier professional certification board devoted to credentialing counselors who meet standards for the general and specialty practices of professional counseling. Currently, there are more than 66,000 board certified counselors in the United States and over 50 countries. The Foundation's mission is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change.

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